

REMARKS

The present application was filed on April 16, 2004 with claims 1 through 20. Claims 1 through 20 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 6, 9 and 14 are proposed to be amended.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-8 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Darcie (United States Number 5,559,624). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 14-16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Masucci et al (United States Number 6,592,272). Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darcie in view of Hill (United States Number 5,963,350). Claims 5, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Masucci. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darcie. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darcie in view of Hill. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Masucci in view of Darcie.

Independent Claims 1, 6, 9 and 14

Independent claims 1, 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Darcie. With respect to claim 14, for example, the Examiner asserts that Darcie discloses a time-domain wavelength interleaved network, comprising a plurality of nodes, including a hub node (Central Office 10), wherein substantially all communications in said time-domain wavelength interleaved network pass through said hub node (Central Office 10).

Each independent claim, including claim 14, has been amended to emphasize that substantially all communications in the time-domain wavelength interleaved network pass through the hub node *without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node*. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 3, lines 24-25 and page 5, lines 7-12.

The Central Office in Darcie, however, performs wavelength translation. Each terminal is assigned a wavelength. The Central Office performs wavelength translation to convert a signal to the wavelength of the intended recipient. See, for example, FIG. 3 and Col. 4, lines 54-67. Thus, substantially all communications in the time-domain wavelength interleaved network do not pass through the hub node *without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node*, as required by each independent claim.

Independent claims 1 and 14 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Masucci et al.

Again, with respect to claim 14, for example, the Examiner asserts that Masucci et al.

disclose a time-domain wavelength interleaved network (citing cols 1 and 2), comprising a plurality of nodes (RTs), including a hub node (Central Terminal), wherein substantially all communications in said time-domain wavelength interleaved network pass through said hub node (citing Fig. 5).

As indicated above, each independent claim, including claim 14, has been amended to emphasize that substantially all communications in the time-domain wavelength interleaved network pass through the hub node *without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node*

In Masucci et al , however, the Central Terminal sends a synchronization signal (λ_p) that indicates the time slot to be used by the RTs. The Central Terminal is allocating the time slots to be used by the RTs, and the RTs then transmit using the assigned time slot. Masucci et al do not address the communications from the Central Terminal to the RTs. Thus, substantially all communications in the time-domain wavelength interleaved network do not pass through the hub node *without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node*, as required by each independent claim.

Independent claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darcie in view of Hill. As indicated above, Darcie does not disclose or suggest that substantially all communications in the time-domain wavelength interleaved network pass through the hub node *without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node*, as required by independent claim 9.

Hill was cited by the Examiner for its disclosure of a tunable laser directed toward the hub node. Hill does not disclose or suggest that substantially all communications in the time-domain wavelength interleaved network pass through the hub node *without changing a wavelength of said communications at said hub node*, as required by independent claim 9.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 6, 9 and 14.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-13 and 15-20 are dependent on independent claims 1, 6, 9 and 14, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Darcie, Masucci et al. and Hill, alone or in any combination, because of their dependency from independent claims 1, 6, 9 and 14 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

Conclusion

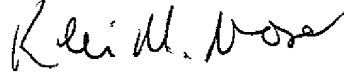
All of the pending claims following entry of the amendments, i.e , claims 1-20, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for

expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: May 16, 2007

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